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THE STORY OF THE ILIAD. By the Rev. Prof. Alfred J. Church. Macmillan's School Library. Macmillan & Co., New York, 1892, pp. VI., 314.

Few writers of stories for the young have succeeded so well as Rev. A. J. Church in putting in popular form the masterpieces of Greek and Roman literature. He is not a translator but a storyteller with the rare ability of keeping to his text. *The Story of the Iliad* is one of his latest productions and one of the best. It is a revision of a part of the older volume, *Stories from Homer*, but as its title indicates the narrative is continuous and gives a complete sketch of the Iliad. The interpolations are so numerous and the verbal changes so frequent that the new edition is really a new book. It renders in simple English much of the fervor and dramatic spirit of the great epic, and it is sufficient praise to say that the author not only shows his readers the plains of Troy but induces with reality the misty legends of the place.

The chief interest for teachers in the appearance of the present volume is that it is the first issue of "Macmillan's School Library of Books for Supplementary Reading." The publishers announce that it will be followed by "such of their books for the young as have already by their popularity and recognized excellence acquired the right to rank as standard reading books." Yonge's *Book of Golden Deeds*, Kingsley's *Madam How and Lady Why*, and Palgrave's *Children's Treasury of English Song*, have closely followed the initial number of the series. They are well bound, printed on good paper and, with one exception, in large type.

The significance of such a series—offered now by most publishing houses—is an encouraging sign of the times. It is coming to be recognized that mere intellectual acumen is not the *summum bonum* of educational methods; there is a higher end and that end is *life*. The routine of school discipline is too often made an end in itself, and for the narrow school a book of indifferent selections may suffice for reading material. The school that aims to bring its pupils in contact with the higher life and the realities of life will demand such masterpieces from all literatures as will best serve to meet the requirements of growing minds to inspire them from the outset with a love for good reading. Publishers in issuing such series as Macmillan & Co. now offer, are doing much to advance right methods and in proportion as they place good reading within reach of all do they deserve recognition and support at the hands of school-men.

—James E. Russell.

THE REALM OF NATURE; AN OUTLINE OF PHYSIOGRAPHY. By Hugh Robert Mill, D.Sc. 336 pp. 19 colored maps and 68 diagrams. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.
University Extension Manuals, edited by Professor Knight.

The author states this book to be "an outline of the more important facts regarding the structure of the Universe, the form,

material and processes of the earth and the relations which they bear to Life in its varied phases." This he calls Physiography which "is an account of physical science as a whole." It is unfortunate that the word Physiography is used here in this sense for there has been a tendency of late years among the best authorities to restrict the term and use it as the equivalent of Physical Geography; but with Thornton using it to cover astronomical relations of the earth, and Mill "as an account of physical science as a whole," one finds it difficult to decide just what Physiography really is.

In a work covering so vast a field as this which Dr. Mill has attempted to consider it is natural to look for much that is weak in the treatment; and this unfortunately is the case in this instance. There are few, if any, scientific men who are competent to cover the whole range of physical science, even in outline, in a satisfactory manner. Such an attempt is of necessity a compilation, in part, and a compilation in a rapidly progressing science by one unacquainted with the progress of the science, is bound to be in error for it cannot include the advance recorded in the current literature, but depends upon text-books which are apt to be in part antiquated.

That this is the case with the book under consideration is plainly seen in the part which deals with geology and which occupies nearly half the book. The author here followed Geikie's Text-Book of Geology, published in 1885, as is shown by his order of presentation and by many minor facts. Among other things he has adopted Geikie's classification of geological periods, in which the Palaeozoic formations are all classed together in the Primary with the Archaen, a classification for which there is no basis and which Geikie himself has abandoned in his latest work. The classification of mountains, also adapted from Geikie, is not scientific for it includes under one head, simply because they are reliefs, such diverse forms as volcanoes, mountains of elevation, and hills of denudation, although in both character and origin they are widely different. A mistake is made in the description of the Appalachian mountains which states that they are made up of a series of anticlinal ridges and synclinal valleys while, in general, the reverse is the case. It is stated also that fjords are usually ascribed to glacial erosion; but there are now very few glacialists who still hold this view.

No cognizance is taken of the work done by the American school of physical geography, which has made such advances in the last twenty years, and built up a new science of physical geography, treating the subject from the point of view of origin, history and development of land form, rather than the purely statistical and descriptive side which he still adheres to and which is properly a part of geography and not physical geography or physiography. Thus islands are spoken of, as of old, as belong-

ing to two classes, Continental and Oceanic, though why the mere proximity to land should serve as a basis for a classification is not apparent. How does the volcanic island of Stromboli differ from one of the Hawaiian islands? The case of the classification of mountains above referred to is also to the point.

The chief criticism to be made against this volume is that of brevity. It would be absolutely impossible in a book so small to cover the entire range of physical science in a manner at all satisfactory though it must be confessed that, considering the size of his book, the author has done remarkably well. Taking one or more scientific examples of this defect, reference may be made to the discussion of the geological action of animal and vegetable life which is not at all complete. The entire subject of the cause of lunar tides occupies but three-fourths of a page, and one unacquainted with the subject would find great difficulty in understanding from his description why there are two tides each day. The same criticism applies to his explanation of geysers and of other phenomena.

Many of the illustrations, particularly the colored maps compiled from Buchan, Wallace and others are excellent; but here also there are omissions. Curiously enough the cartographer has failed to mark Japan as a region of frequent earthquakes although there are few countries in the world where they are more frequent. On the same chart there is a failure to record the recent volcanoes of the western United States of which a number have been described. Several existing glaciers were described from the Sierra Nevada by Russell in 1885, but they are not marked upon the chart which is made to show the distribution of glaciers.

With the exception of the cross sections the diagrammatic illustrations are good. For some reason which does not appear, Dr. Mill has made the vertical scale of his sections three hundred times the horizontal. This immense vertical exaggeration has produced a thoroughly unnatural effect. Sometimes it is necessary to make the vertical scale greater than the horizontal but ordinarily the best result is obtained by the adoption of a natural scale, or at most a very slight exaggeration. One does not then have to mentally reduce the diagram from a series of nearly vertical lines and acute angles to the normal gentle slope and rounded summit.

The author's style is admirably clear and crisp but in reading the book the excessive conciseness is almost tiresome, and this is increased at times by the use of words and phrases which require some effort to translate. Examples of this are the two words, Hydrosphere and Lithosphere, very little used elsewhere, but which Dr. Mill constantly uses for ocean and the world's crust. There are other reasons than this why it is doubtful if it is well to attempt this substitute, chiefly that neither is a sphere as the names would imply.

The defects of this book have been thus fully dwelt upon, not because it is wholly bad, for there are many points worthy of the highest praise, but because the weak points are sufficiently numerous to seriously injure its value as a book of reference. Dr. Mill has attempted too much; and knowing the scope of the volume its weakness could have been predicted. Such a work could be produced satisfactorily only by a number of authors each writing upon his own specialty; but in this age of abundant and cheap text-books there is very little need of a book so general in range as this. If, however, one wishes to know a little of all the physical sciences, and is not able to procure a text-book upon each of the subjects he will find in this volume a fairly good substitute. The author shows a marked talent for lucid writing and as broad a knowledge as could be expected. He has tried to eliminate inaccuracies with much care; but in spite of all his efforts these have crept in as they must in all compilations of a physical science, unless done by specialists who alone are able to keep abreast of the times in a rapidly progressing science, carefully weigh the facts and properly present the progress of the science.

—*Ralph S. Tarr.*

AN ENGLISH GRAMMAR, adapted from "Essentials of English Grammar" by Professor W. D. Whitney. By Mrs. Sara E. H. Lockwood. Boston: Ginn & Co.

It has been a common criticism on Professor Whitney's "Essentials of English Grammar," that it was too difficult for school use. Appreciating this, Mrs. Lockwood with the author's permission has adapted the more elaborate book in order "to furnish a simple and practical text-book for pupils who are not of sufficient maturity to use with advantage the original work." The adaptation consists in simplifying the book by omitting considerable portions, as for instance chapters III and IV, by restatement in simpler language, and by adding numerous exercises for practice and illustration. Mrs. Lockwood has before this acquired a reputation by her excellent book "Lessons in English," so that she was well fitted to add those practical features so necessary to a successful text-book in America.

Apart from this Mrs. Lockwood has made few additions to the "Essentials." One or two that have been noticed may perhaps be somewhat criticised without doing injustice to the generally excellent character of the book. Under possessives we find this sentence: "Sometimes, however, we use both the preposition and the possessive form of the noun; for example, I will show you a picture of my brother's; He is a servant of the general's." There is here no suggestion that the form is a colloquialism, scarcely to be used by a careful writer of the present time. Another addition has been made under the heading of the present